

A BRIEF  
HISTORY  
OF OUR  
FLAG

Its Past - Present and Possible Future



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Y/E

THIS BOOK IS DESIGNED AND DEDICATED  
TO



AND THE COMING GENERATIONS OF AMERICAN BORN CHILDREN  
BY  
THOMAS G. WOODMAN



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MAY 31 1919

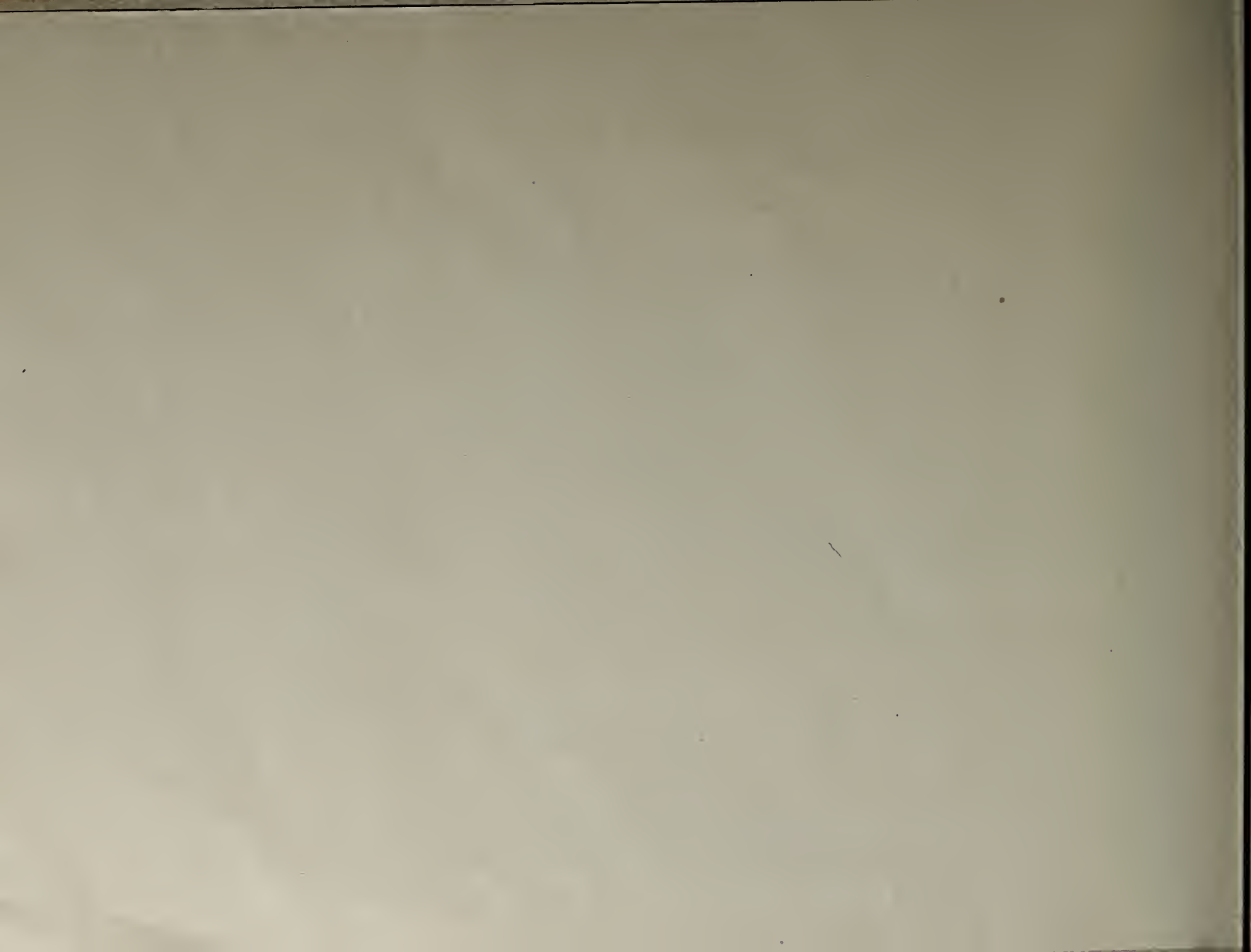
710.11

## THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
 What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last  
     gleaming,  
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the perilous  
     fight  
 O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly  
     streaming?  
 And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air  
 Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.  
 Oh, say, does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

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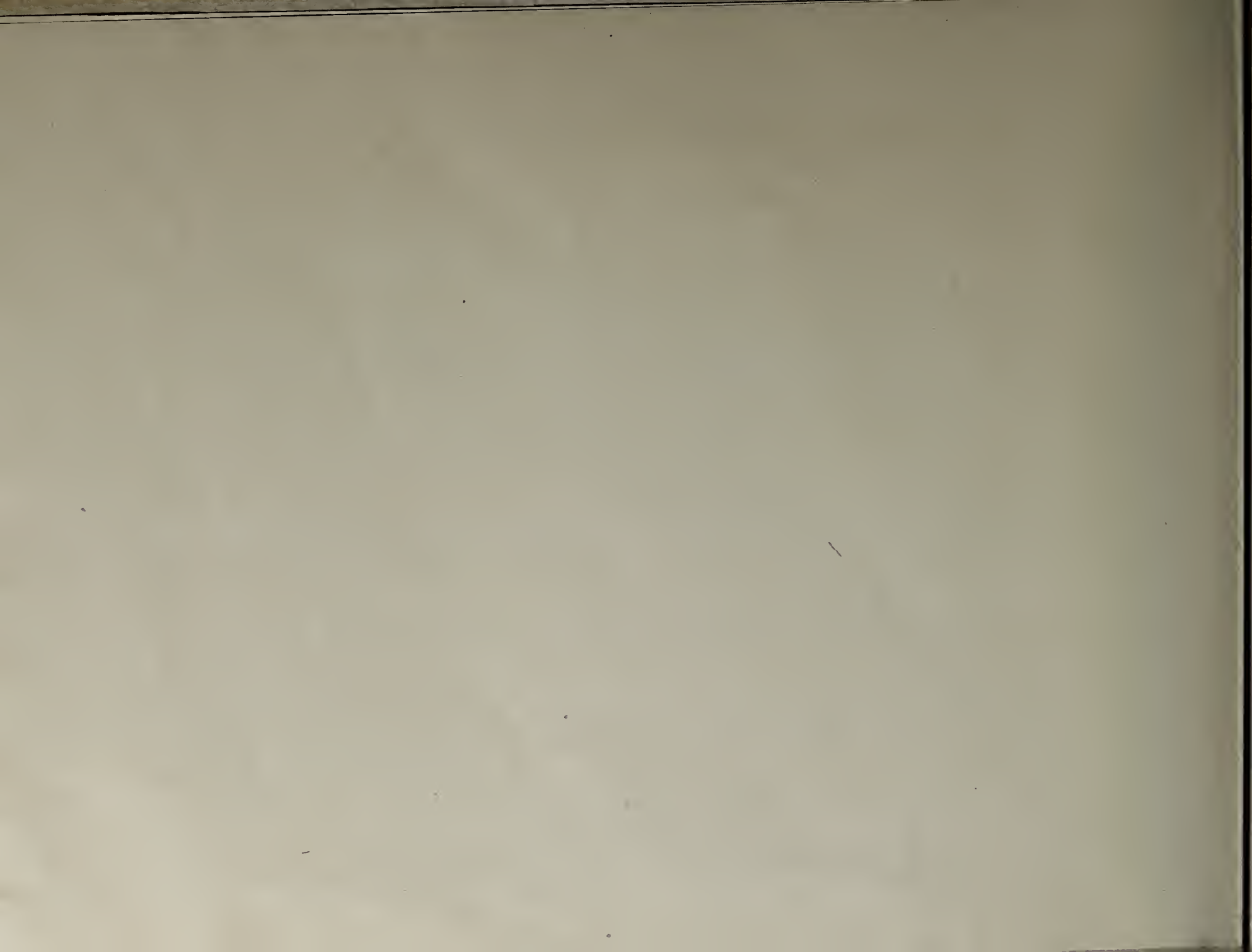
## Origin of Our Flag

There is no accurate history; it is claimed that in June, 1776, a committee of Congress, consisting of George Washington, Robert Morris and Col. George Ross, called on Mrs. Betsy Ross, a young widow, at her upholstery shop on Arch street, Philadelphia, and asked her if she could make the flag. She said she would try. A rough design of thirteen stripes and thirteen stars, the latter being six-pointed, was suggested. She advised that the stars should be five-pointed, showing that a five-pointed star could be made with a single clip of the scissors. The committee agreed to this as it would be better. George Washington changed the design on the spot and the committee left. Shortly afterward the sketch thus made was copied and colored by a local artist and was sent to Mrs. Ross, from which she made a sample flag that was approved by the committee. It is added that George

Washington thought that the stars should be placed in a circle, thus signifying the equality of the states, none being superior to another. The account rests almost entirely upon Mrs. Ross's own statements made by members of her family and repeated by her descendants.

The flag does more than emblazon a momentous and glorious history; it declares the purposes and heralds the ideals of the Republic; it admonishes us to uphold the inherent rights of all men; it tells us to stand for international justice and consideration; and it encourages us to accept the consequences without fear. It hails us to individual duties and the co-operation which alone can maintain equality of rights and fulness of opportunity in America.

It insists that we set a compelling example which will enlarge both security and freedom, both peace and prosperity, in all parts of the world.





## Description of Proposed Design for Blue Field in Flag

With the knowledge that the design, or the placing of the stars in the union of our flag, had been changed four times during 142 years, the designer conceived the idea that a permanent design could be made without changing the principles for which the stars and stripes were intended.

In no way is the size or shape of either the union or stripes changed.

Everything owned by the United States is marked either U. S. or United States. The question arises,

### **Why Not Mark the Flag U. S.?**

By placing thirteen large stars in form of the letter "U," (which may represent the thirteen stars in our original flag), thirteen large stars in the form of the letter "S," (which may represent the thirteen stripes in our original flag), together in the blue field we have a permanent foundation of design.

With twenty-six large stars as a foundation, place one small star under each large one, except the four large stars at bottom nearest

the center of union, making forty-eight stars, the number in our present flag.

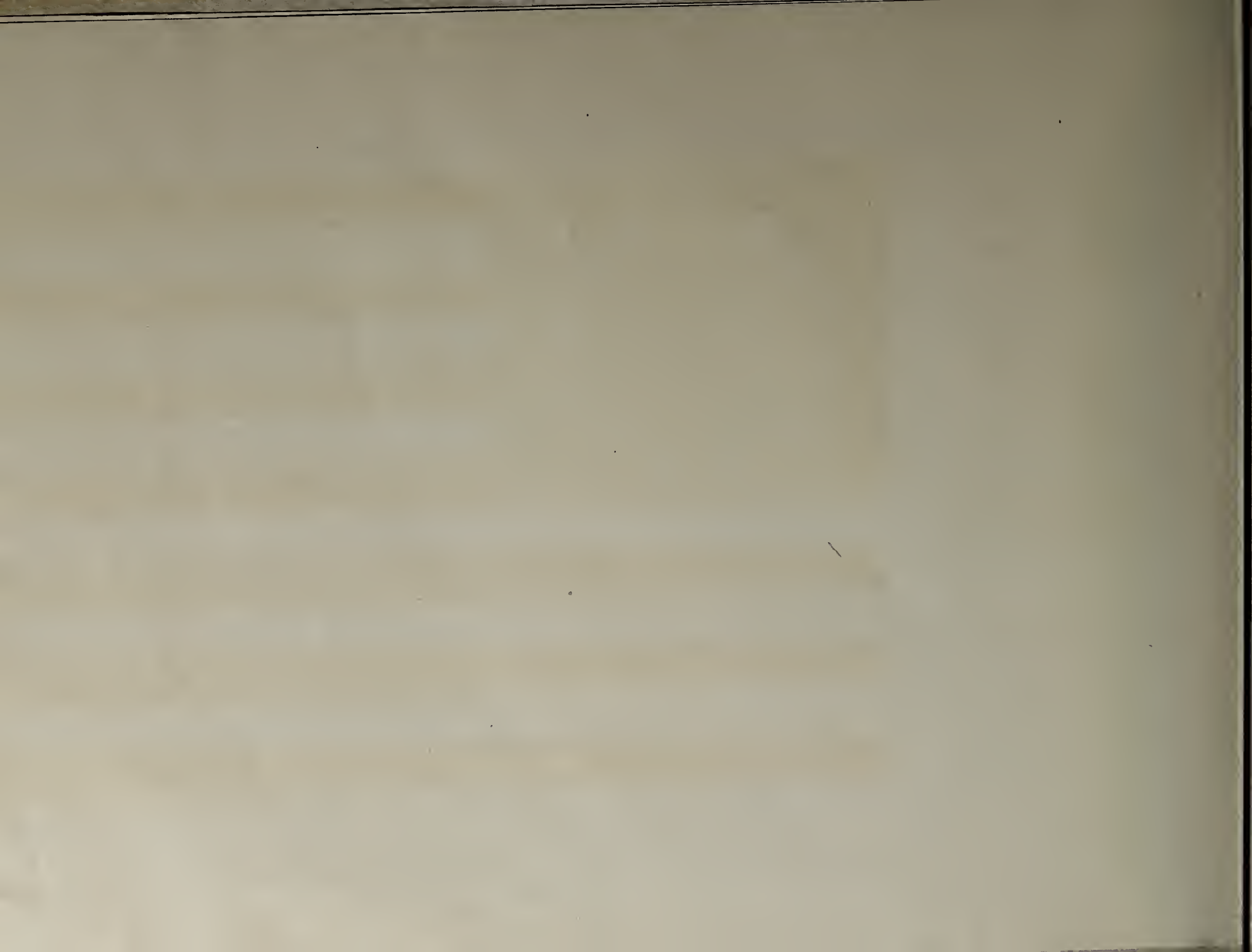
Territories, four in number, have representation in Congress. **Why not give them representation on the flag?**

Place a pentagon under the four stars mentioned above, which in no way will mar the beauty or principle of design (as shown in drawing No. 5 in this book). When territories are made states the figure representing them may be easily changed to a star.

As states are added, a star may be added to the union without changing the principle of design. Drawings may be found on other pages of this book. In fact the more stars added the more beautiful the flag.

The proposed design will positively provide that another change in design will never have to be made.

THOMAS G. WOODMAN,  
Designer.



No. 1

## OUR FIRST FLAG

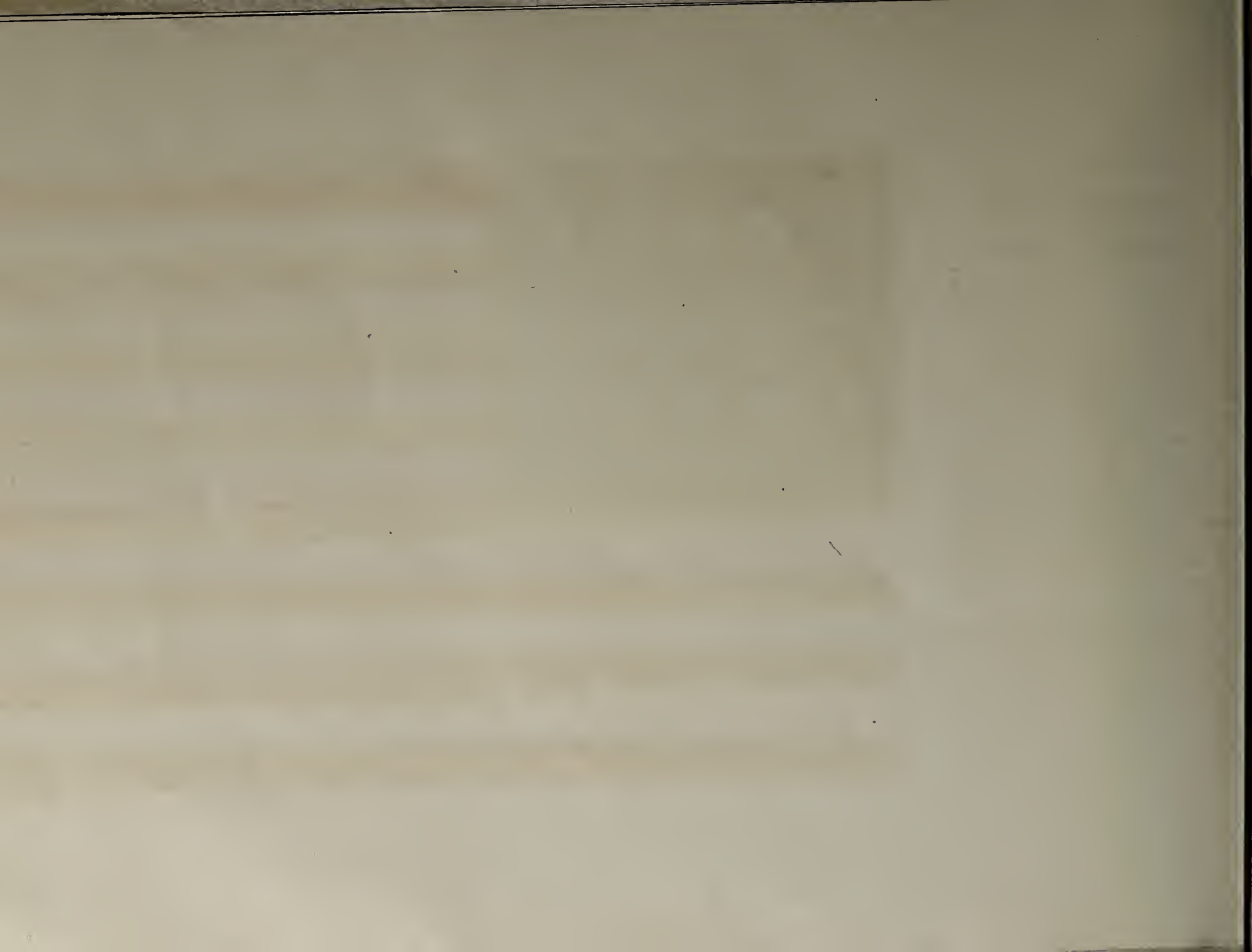
Thirteen Stars—Thirteen  
Stripes.

Adopted by Congress, June 14,  
1777.

Resolved, That the flag of the  
United States be thirteen stripes,  
alternate red and white; that the  
union be thirteen stars, white on a  
blue field, representing a new con-  
stellation.

The flag with thirteen stars and  
thirteen stripes remained the na-  
tional emblem until May 1, 1795.







No. 2

## OUR SECOND FLAG

Fifteen Stars—Fifteen Stripes.

Adopted by Congress January 13, 1794.

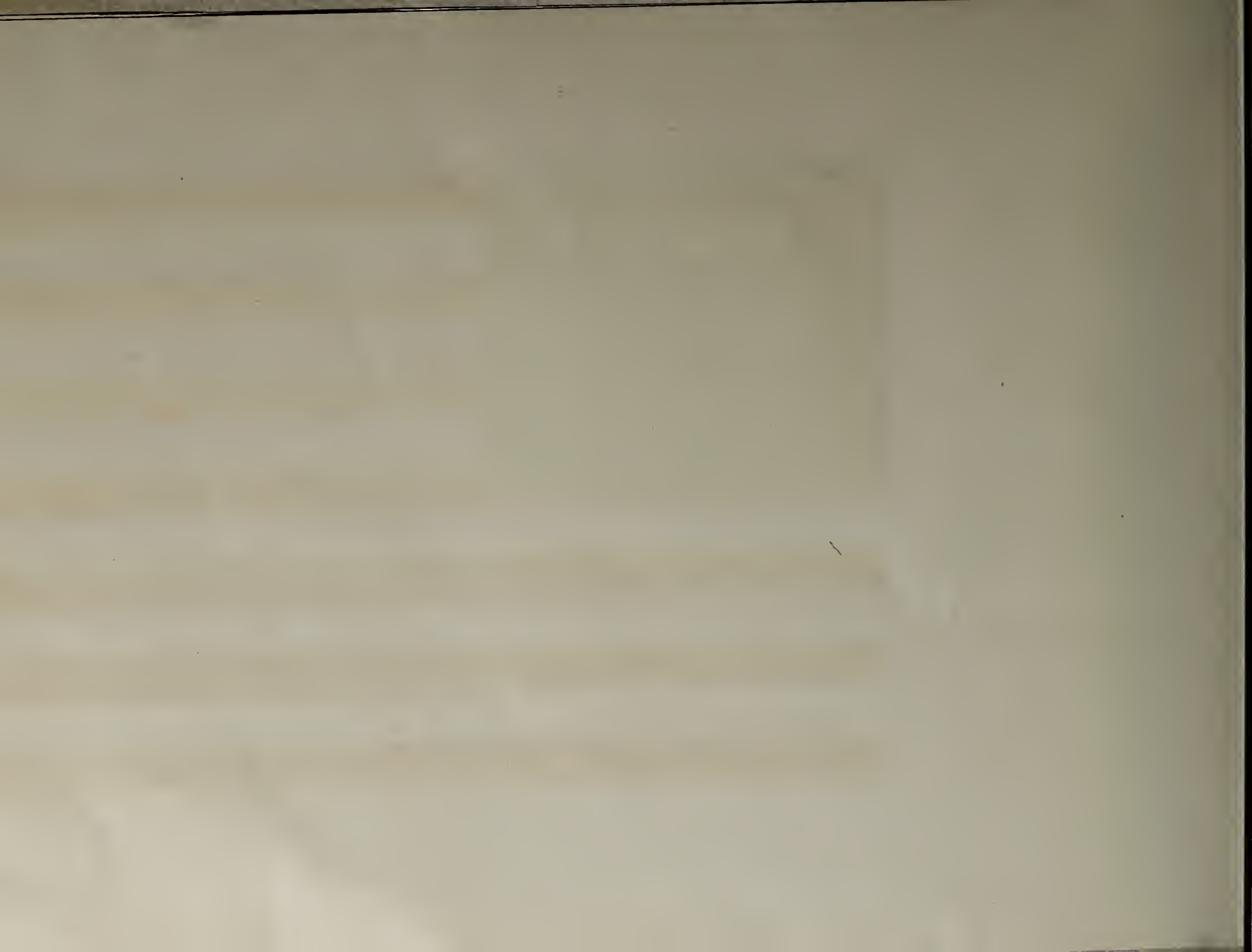
Not foreseeing the growth of the flag in the addition of both star and stripe for each new state, Congress passed the following act, which was approved by President Washington on January 13, 1794.

Be it enacted, etc., That from and after the first day of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes, alternate red and white; and that the union be fifteen stars white in a blue field.

The stars were arranged in three parallel rows of five each.

This was the national flag for twenty-three years.





No. 3

### OUR THIRD FLAG

Twenty Stars—Thirteen Stripes.

Adopted by Congress, April 4, 1818.

Be it enacted, etc., That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union have twenty stars, white in a blue field.

Be it further enacted, That on the admission of every new state into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July succeeding such admission.

Upon suggestion of Capt. Reid of the United States Navy the stars were arranged to form one great star in the center of the union. This design did not gain favor and the stars were soon thereafter arranged in rows. April 4, 1818, approved by President Monroe, fixed finally the general form of our flag.







No. 4

## OUR FOURTH AND PRESENT FLAG

Forty-eight Stars—Thirteen Stripes

The early confusion about the arrangement of the stars has largely disappeared. In the absence of direct legislation an agreement has been arrived at between the War and Navy Departments on the subject.

Since July 4, 1908, the arrangement of the stars in the flags of the Army and ensigns of the Navy has been in six horizontal rows.





No. 5

## THE PROPOSED REPLACING OF STARS IN THE BLUE FIELD

Forty-eight Stars—Four Territories  
—Thirteen Stripes.

The large stars shown in new design are placed in the form of the letters U and S, thirteen in each, which may represent the thirteen stars and thirteen stripes of our original flag. The twenty-six large stars form the foundation for a permanent design. A small star is placed under each large star except the four large stars at bottom nearest center of the union, making forty-eight stars the number of our present flag.

Place a pentagon under the four stars mentioned above to represent the four territories which have representation in our Congress and you have an evenly balanced design.

The addition of states and territories may be represented on this design for all time.







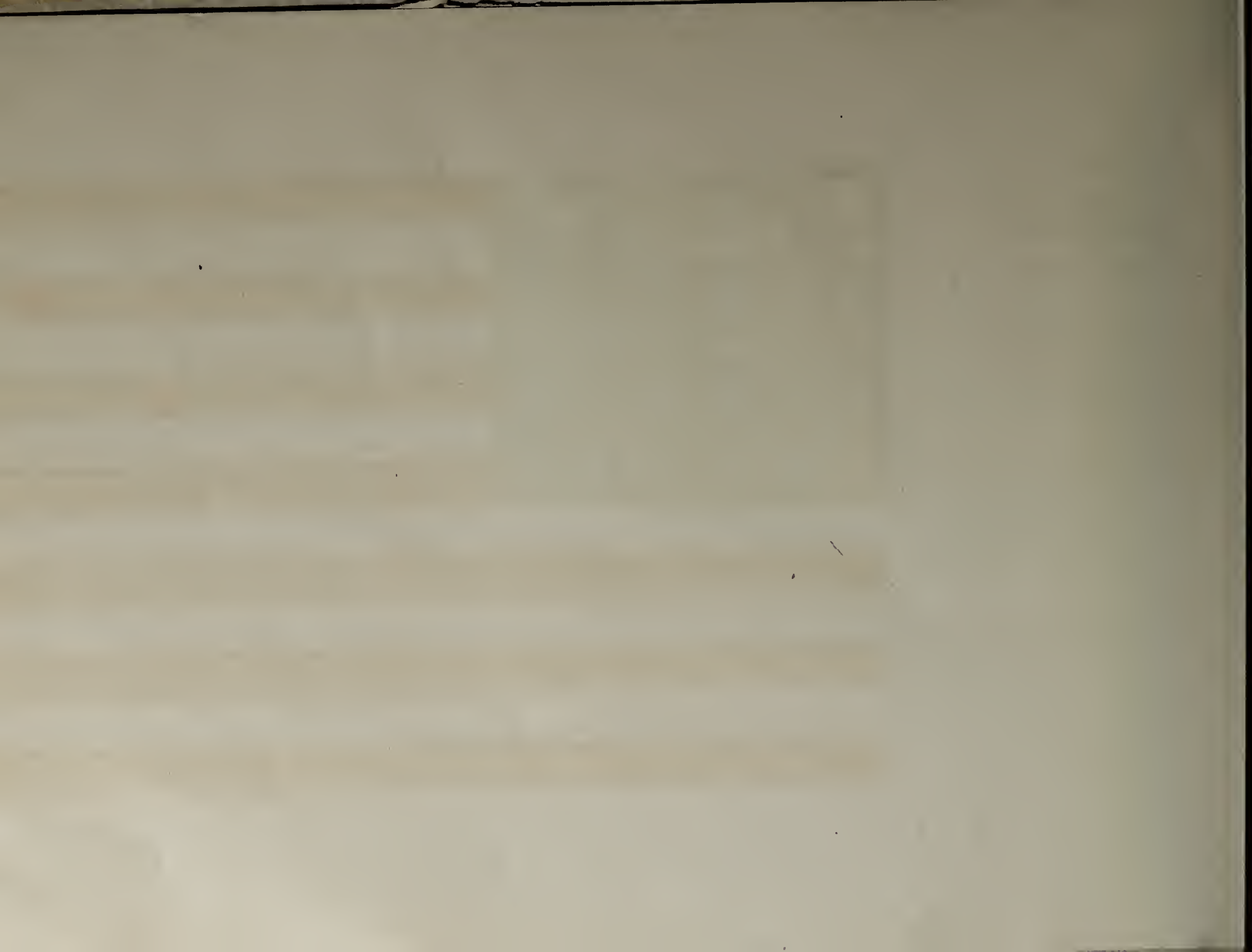
No. 6

AS OUR FLAG WOULD  
APPEAR WITH

Fifty-two States—Thirteen Stripes.

With fifty-two stars in the union of our present flag it would appear as per picture. The open spaces which are necessary take away a great deal of the beauty of our present flag.





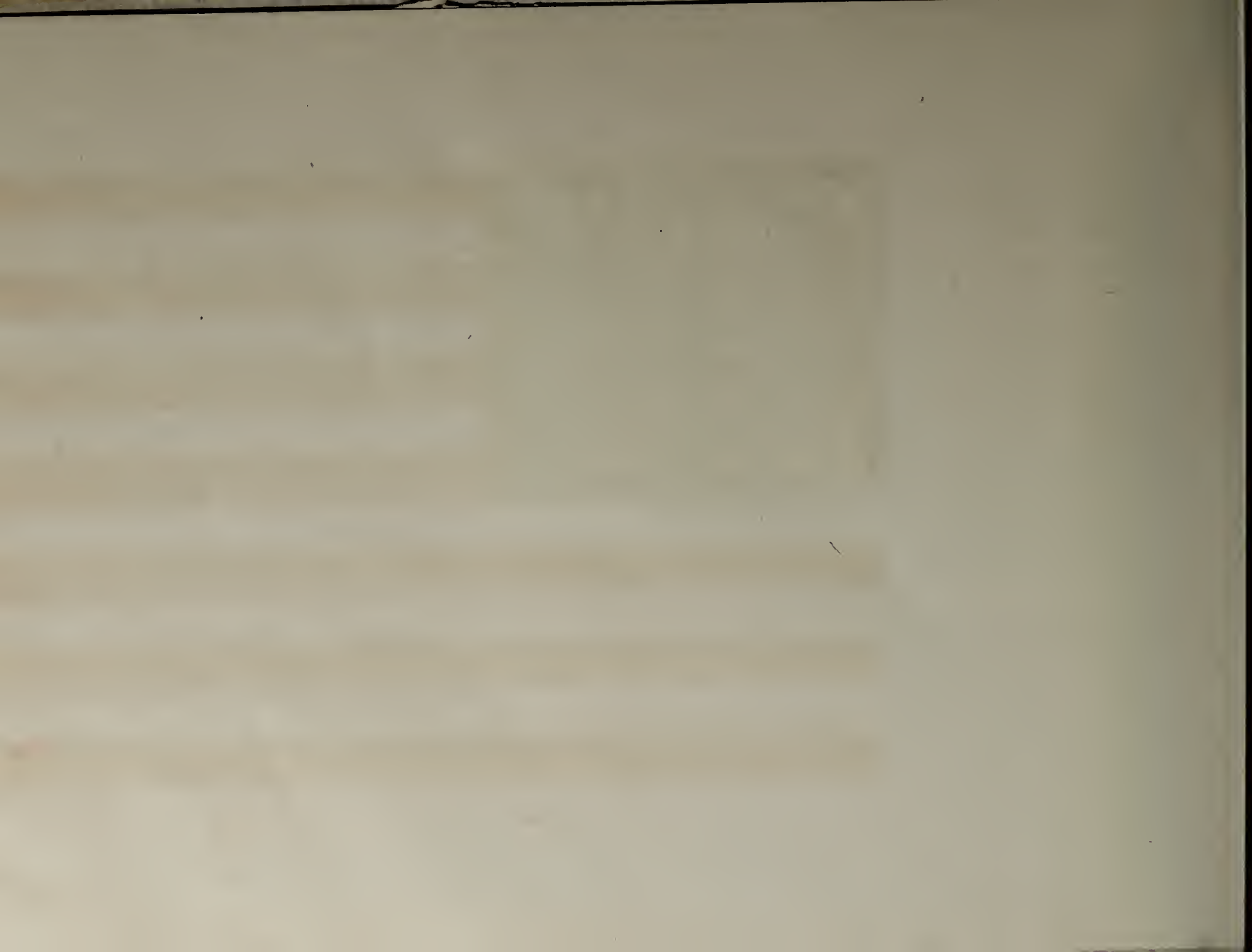
No. 7

AS THE FLAG WOULD AP-  
PEAR IN NEW DESIGN

Fifty-two States—Thirteen Stripes.

With fifty-two states in the Union, the fifty-two stars would appear as per picture. The representation of territories is not shown here but may always be placed, no matter how many there may be, without marring the beauty or changing the principle of design.





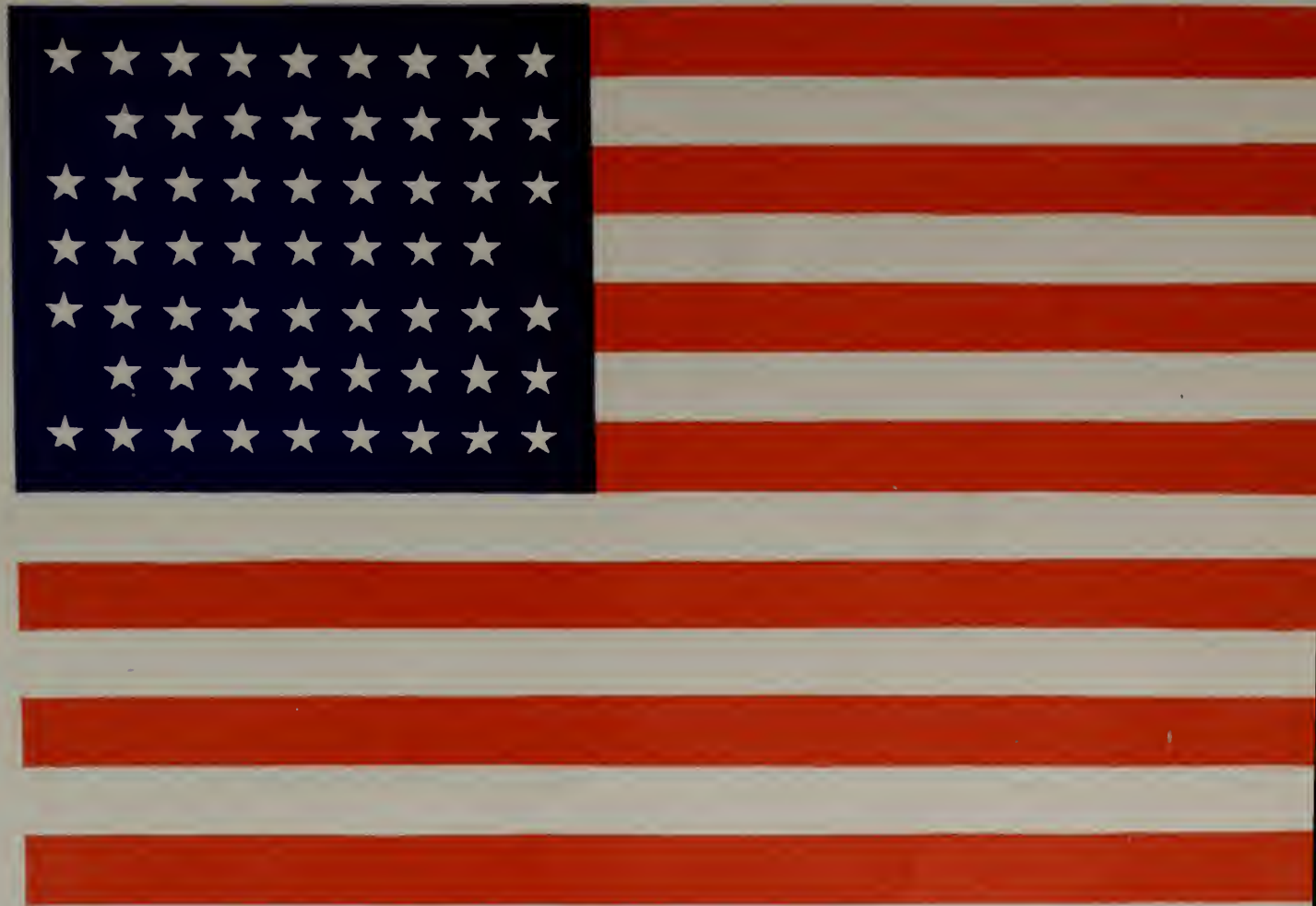


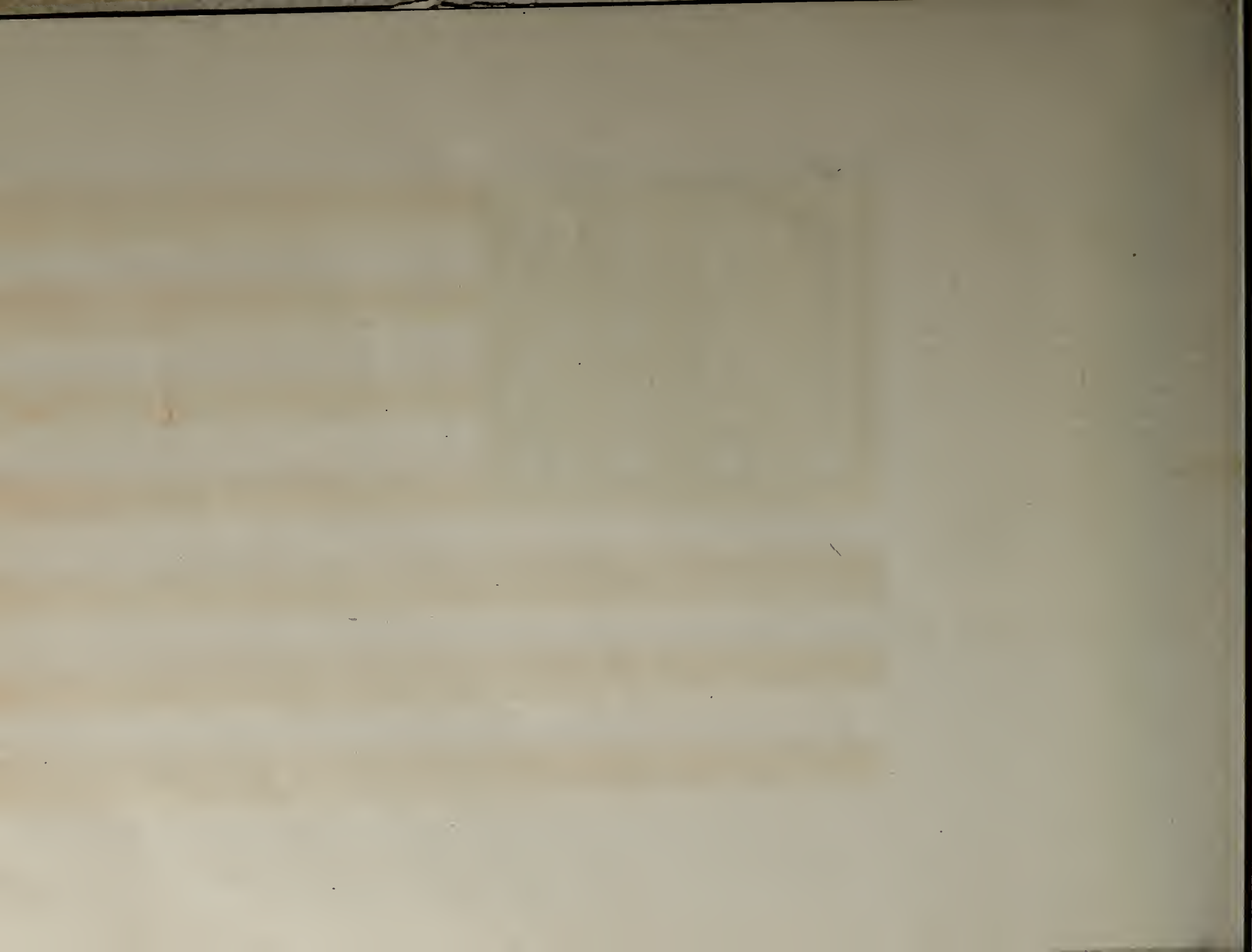
No. 8

AS OUR FLAG WOULD  
APPEAR WITH

Sixty Stars—Thirteen Stripes.

With sixty stars in the union of our flag it would appear as per picture. By adding more rows of stars either way you will notice that the stars have to be much smaller, which mars the real beauty of our present flag.





No. 9

AS THE FLAG WOULD  
APPEAR WITH

Sixty Stars—Thirteen Stripes.

With sixty states in the Union the sixty stars would appear as per picture. From the time fifty-two stars are on the flag, when other stars have to be added, it is proposed by the designer to place a star first at upper left side of center star in letter U, then upper right side of center star in letter S. Repeat same form on right side of each star and continue until each large star is surrounded by five small stars. This form of placing added stars is to keep both letters as evenly balanced as possible at all times.







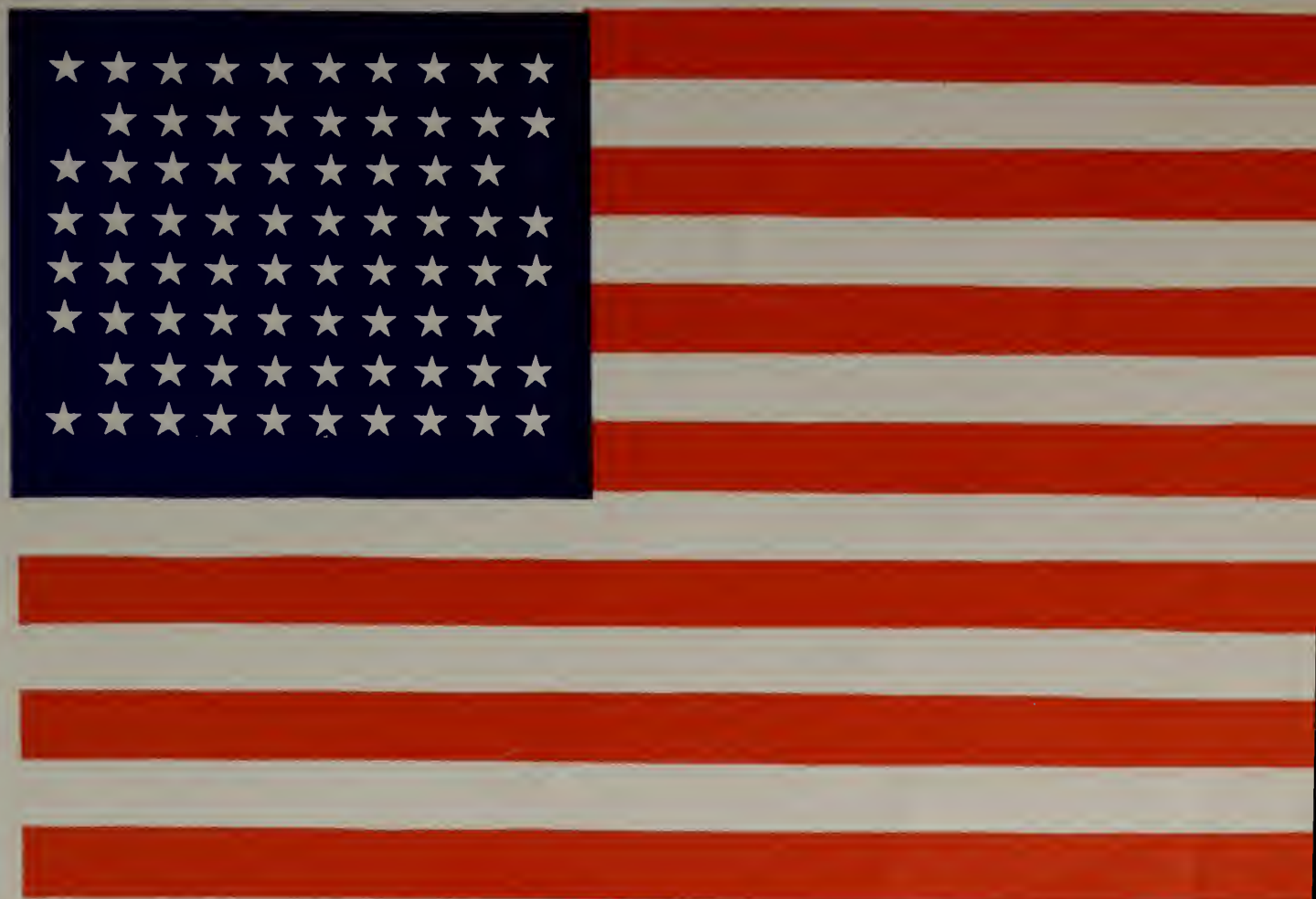
No. 10

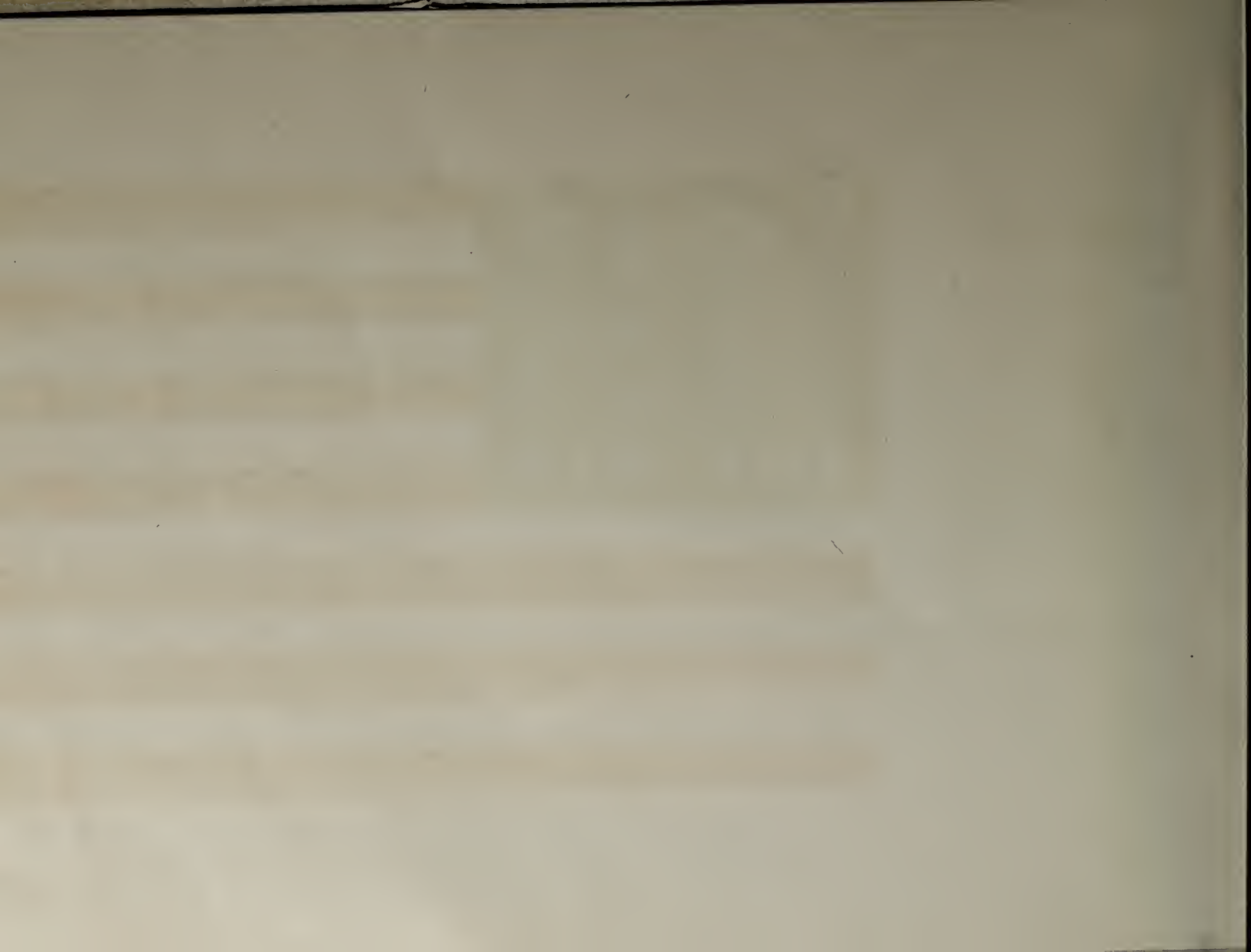
AS OUR FLAG WOULD  
APPEAR WITH

Seventy-six Stars—Thirteen  
Stripes.

With seventy-six states in the Union the seventy-six stars would appear as per picture. The stars having to be made much smaller in order to get them in the same space as our present flag would lose a great deal of its beauty.

This design is shown only as a comparison to our next picture.





No. 11

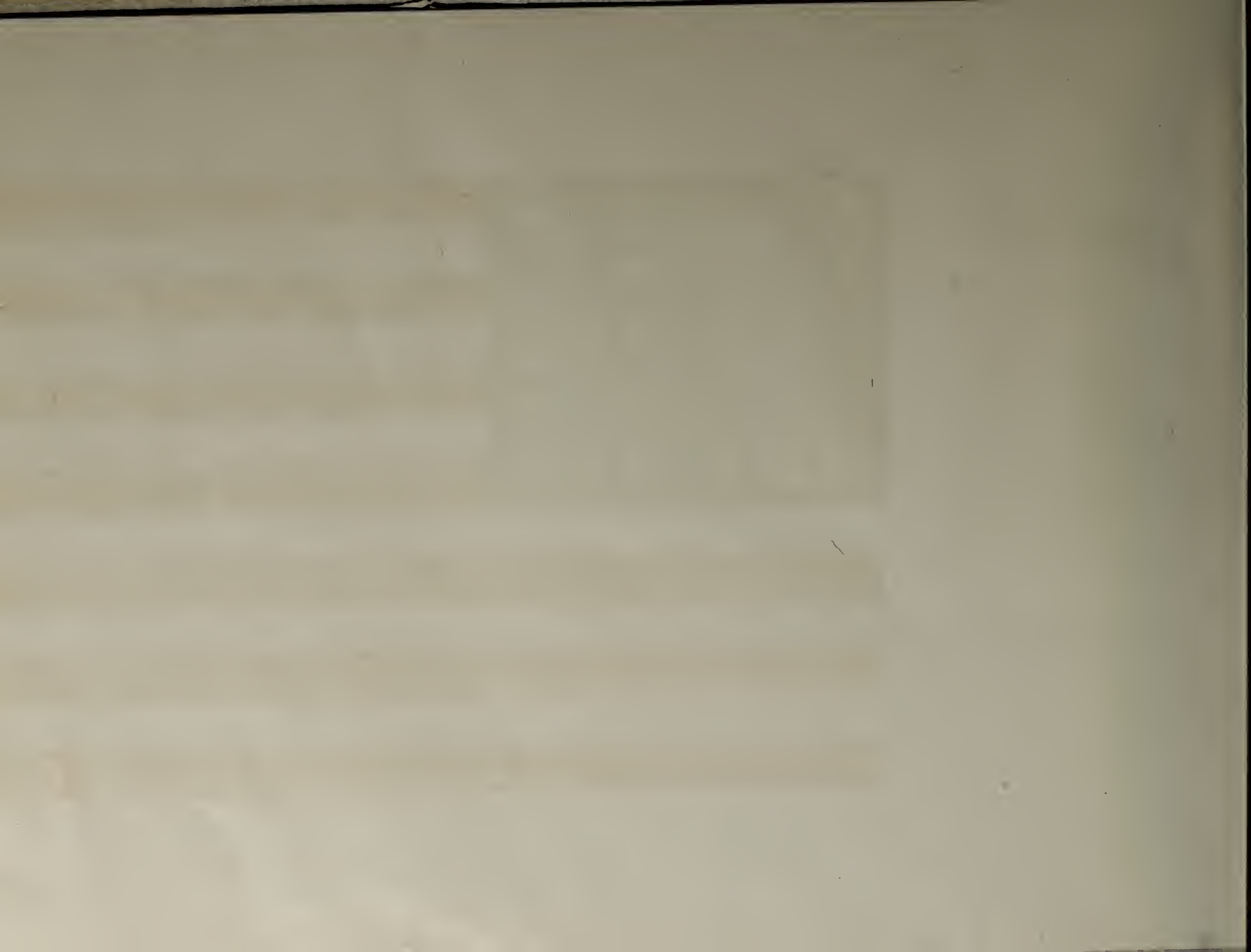
AS THE FLAG WOULD  
APPEAR WITH

Seventy-six Stars—Thirteen  
Stripes.

With seventy-six states in the Union, the seventy-six stars would appear as per picture.

In placing the stars to be added after sixty stars are on flag, the same rule is applied to the end stars of each letter; continue until each end star of each letter is surrounded by five small stars.







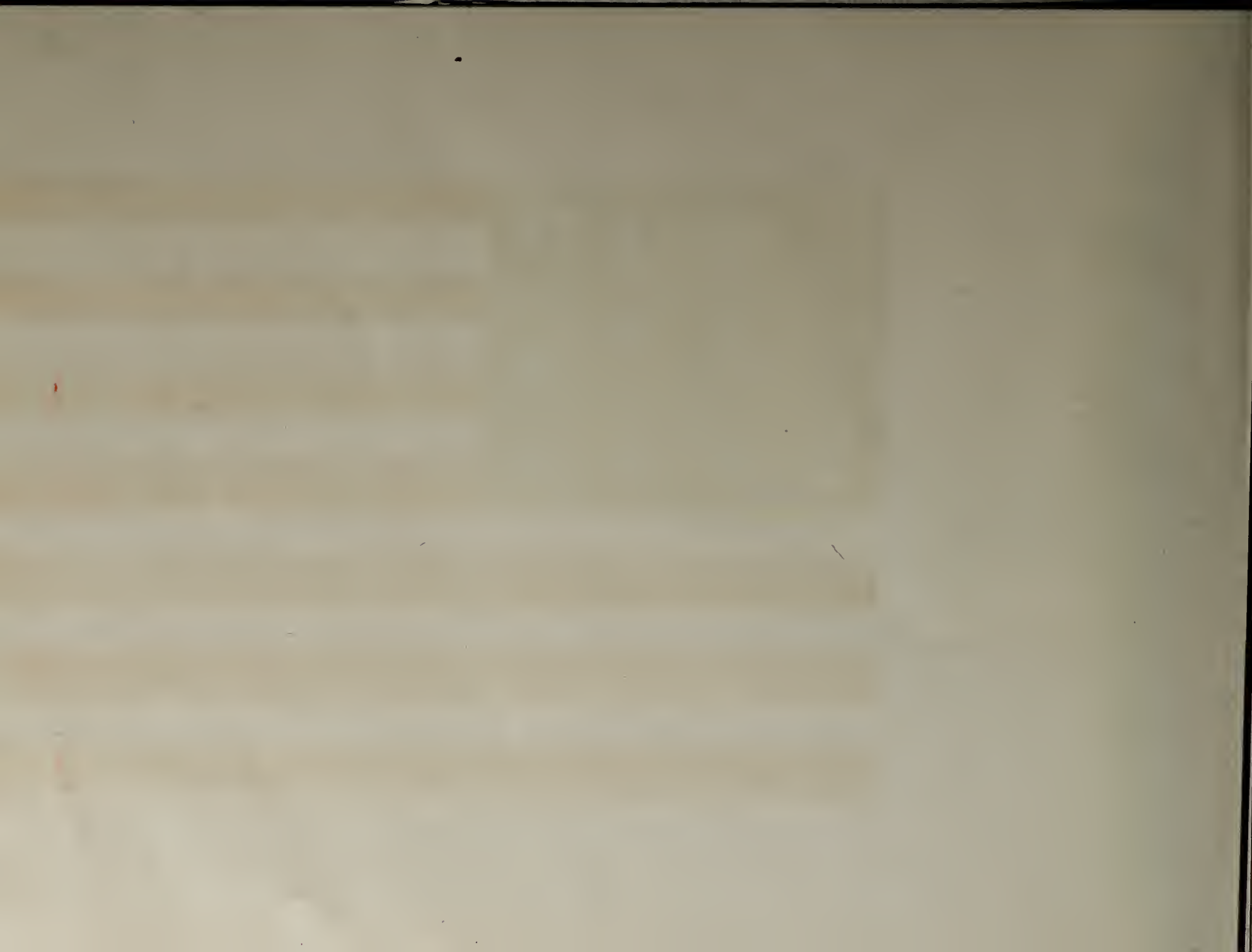
No. 12

AS OUR FLAG WOULD  
APPEAR WITH

One Hundred and Four Stars—  
Thirteen Stripes

With one hundred and four states in the Union the one hundred and four stars would appear as per picture. The real beauty of the parallel line rows of stars has disappeared and the designer's corresponding picture found on next page will prove the advisability of a change. Compare this and the next picture at a short distance.





No. 13

AS THE FLAG WOULD AP-  
PEAR IN NEW DESIGN WITH

One Hundred and Four Stars—  
Thirteen Stripes.

With one hundred and four states in the Union, the one hundred and four stars would appear as per picture. At the first change to be made or the first stars to be added after seventy-six stars are on the flag, take away the two small stars at right and left sides of the two end and center stars in each letter and place them at upper right and left of stars commencing as you would make both letters U and S continue this form until you have two above each of the twenty-six stars.





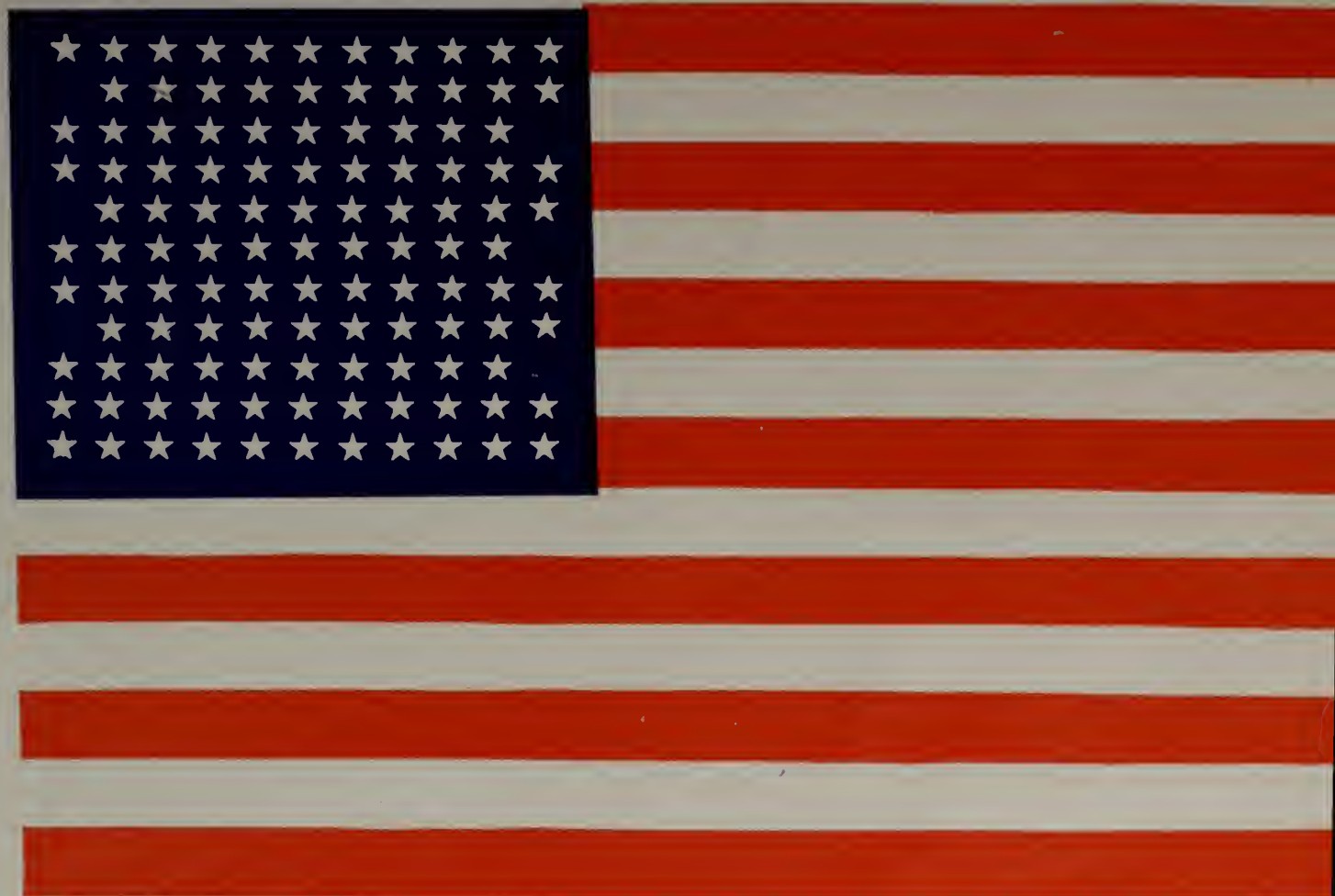


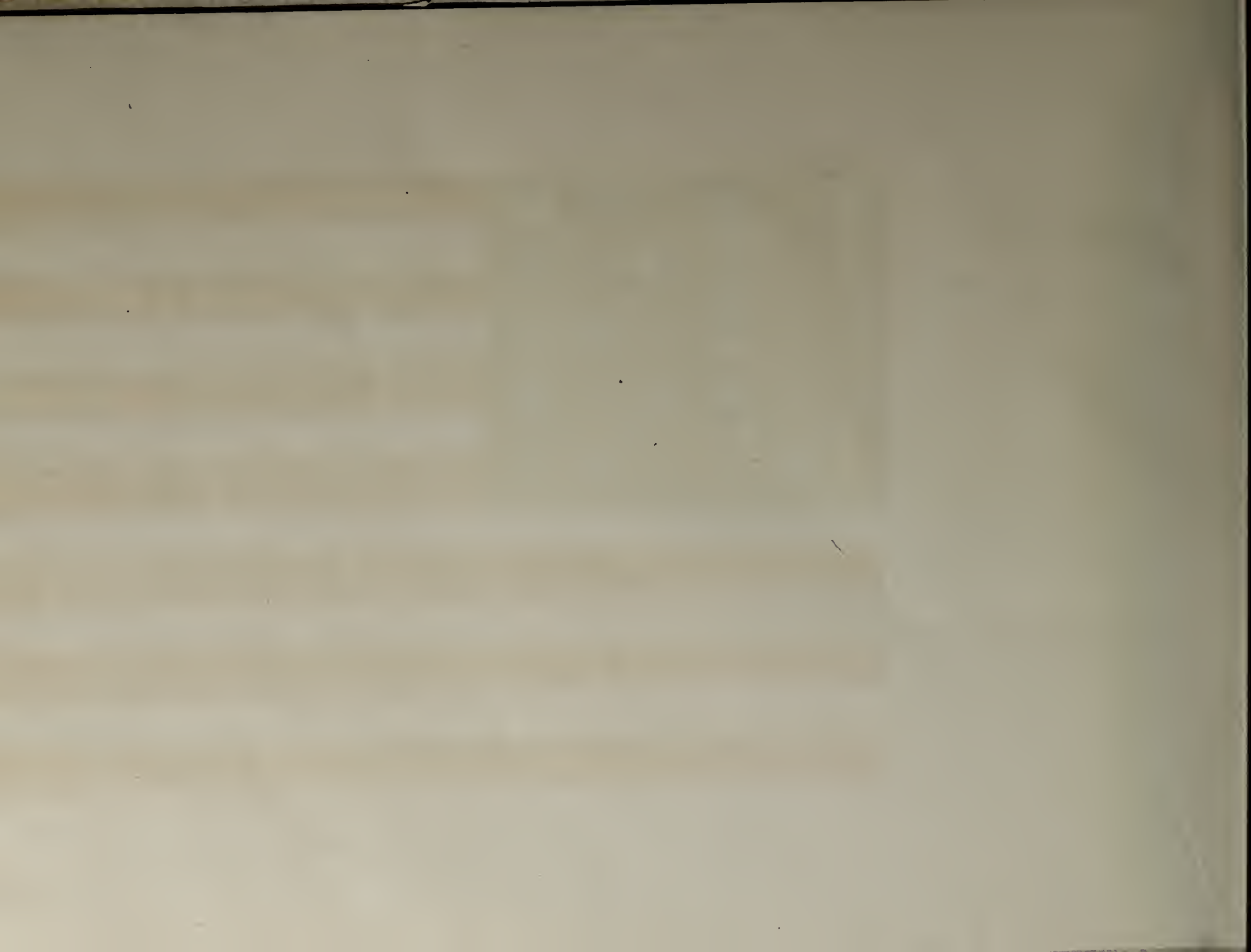
No. 14

AS OUR FLAG WOULD  
APPEAR WITH

One Hundred and Sixteen Stars—  
Thirteen Stripes.

With one hundred and sixteen  
states in the Union the one hun-  
dred and sixteen stars would ap-  
pear as per picture.





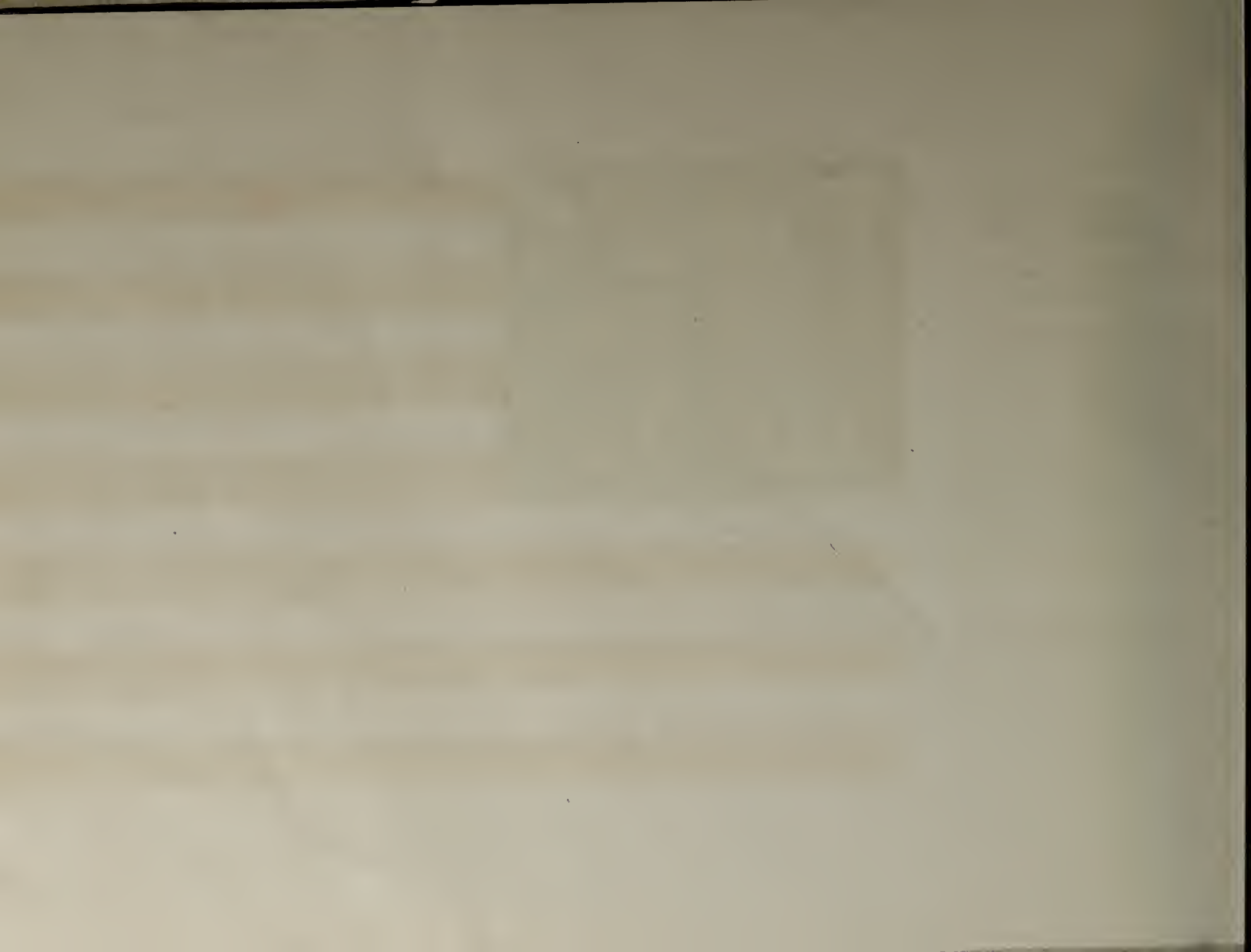
No. 15

AS IT WOULD APPEAR IN  
NEW DESIGN WITH

One Hundred and Sixteen Stars—  
Thirteen Stripes

With one hundred and sixteen states in the Union, the one hundred and sixteen stars would appear as per picture. The placing of the stars for this design, commence as in design No. 6; surround the center star in each letter, then follow the same form as in design No. 7, surrounding the end stars of each letter.





No. 16

AS OUR FLAG WOULD  
APPEAR WITH

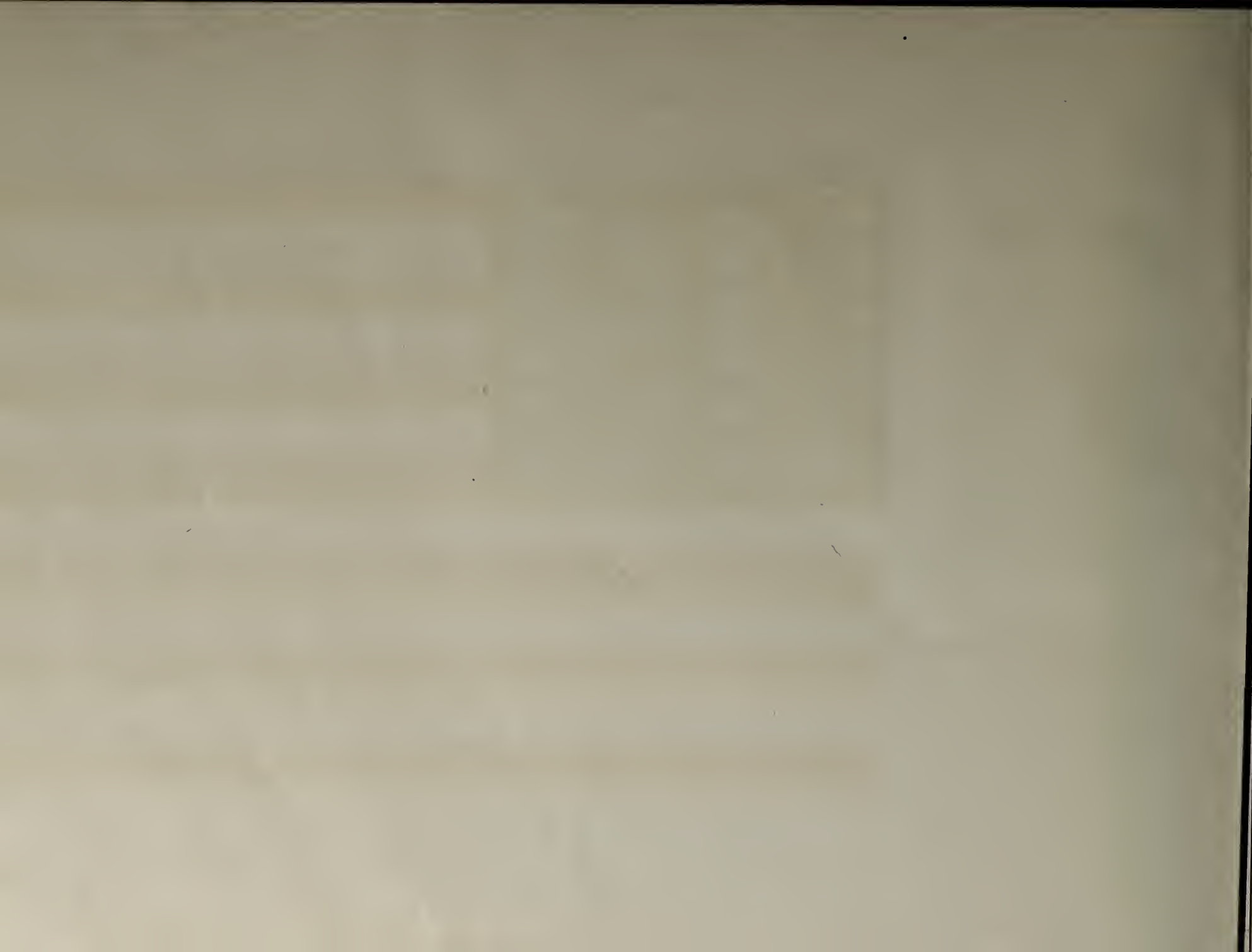
One Hundred and Fifty-six Stars—  
Thirteen Stripes.

With one hundred and fifty-six states in the Union, the one hundred and fifty-six stars would appear as per picture. While it is not probable that we will have that many states, the designer wishes to show how the parallel line form of stars would compare with the same number of stars in the proposed design.

At a short distance, the rows of stars would appear like white stripes.







No. 17

AS IT WOULD APPEAR IN  
NEW DESIGN WITH

One Hundred and Fifty-six Stars—  
Thirteen Stripes

With one hundred and fifty-six states in the Union the one hundred and fifty-six stars would appear as per picture. Five small stars surrounding each large star the design becomes most beautiful.





No. 18

AS OUR FLAG WOULD  
APPEAR WITH

Two Hundred and Eighty-six Stars  
—Thirteen Stripes.

With two hundred and eighty-six states in the Union the two hundred and eighty-six stars would appear as per picture.

This picture is shown simply as a comparison as to the extreme limit of the new design without changing the principle or marring its beauty.







No. 19

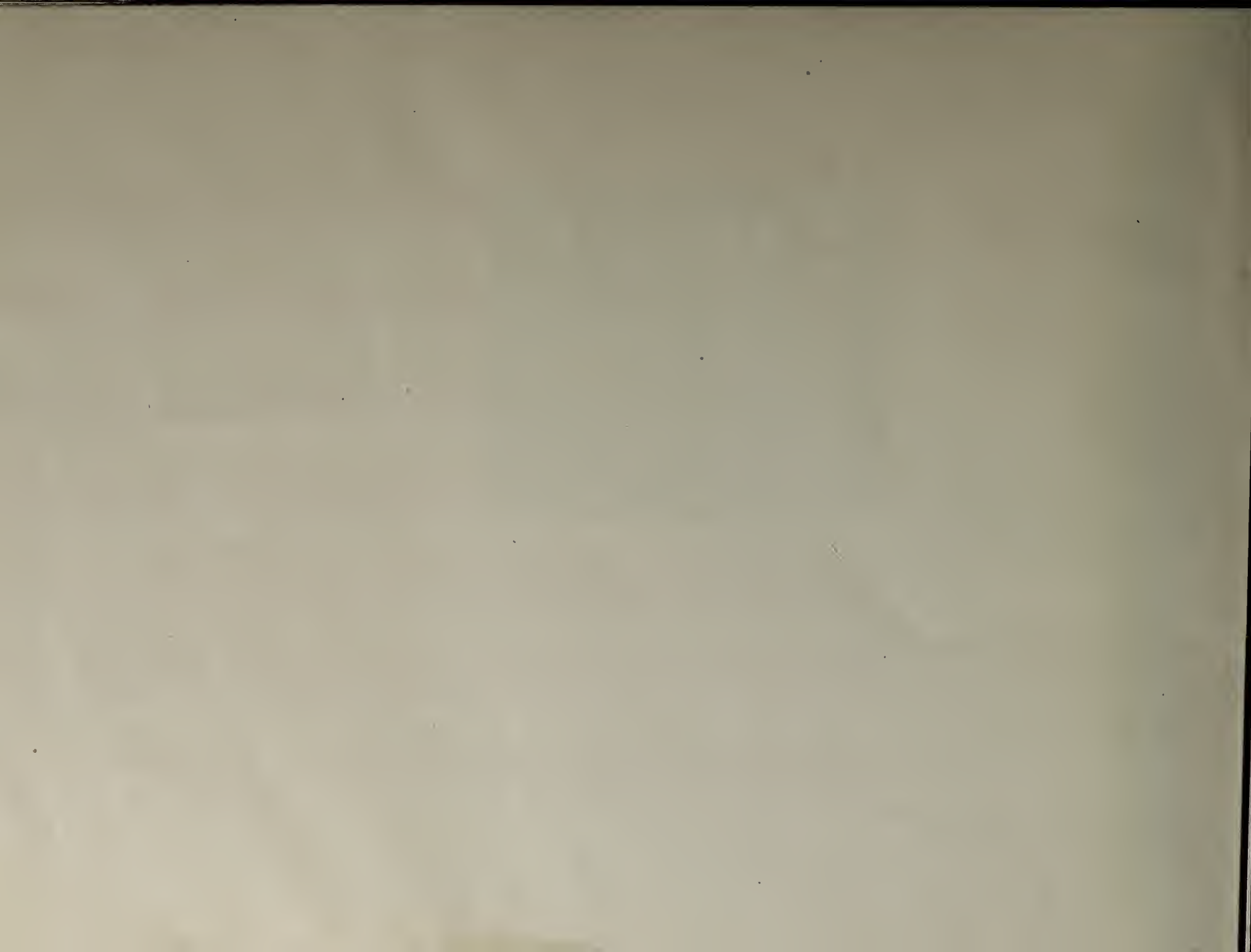
AS THE FLAG WOULD AP-  
PEAR IN NEW DESIGN

Two Hundred and Eighty-six States  
—Thirteen Stripes.

With two hundred and eighty-six states in the Union, the two hundred and eighty-six stars would appear as per picture.

This will, in the mind of the designer, prove beyond a doubt that if the present form of parallel lines of stars has to be changed at any time in the future, that the proposed design, if adopted, would never have to be changed.





### AMERICA

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,

Of thee I sing;

Land where my fathers died,

Land of the Pilgrim's pride,

From every mountain side

Let freedom ring.



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